

Serial No. 10/069,732

ASA-1074

Amendment

Response to Office Action mailed May 8, 2009

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawing includes changes to FIG. 4. This sheet, which includes FIGS. 3-4, replaces the original sheet including FIGS. 3-4. In FIG. 4, the legend PRIOR ART has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

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REMARKS**Pending Claims**

Claims 18-21 and 24 are pending in this application. Claim 18 has been amended.

No new matter has been added.

Title of the Invention

A new Title of the Invention has been supplied in accordance with the Examiner's requirement.

Abstract of the Invention

A new Abstract of the Invention has been supplied.

Drawings

Figure 4 has been labeled as PRIOR ART, in accordance with the Examiner's requirement. Accordingly, the drawing objection should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 & §103

Claims 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Murakami et al, U. S. Patent No. 6,091,673.

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Murakami '673.

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Applicants request reconsideration of the rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and for the following reasons. According to the embodiments of the present invention, the magnetic domain shape that is formed on the medium is crescent shaped, and the orientation of the crescent shape is changed or controlled by controlling the orientation of the non-circular shape of the heated area.

Applicants have amended claim 18 to set forth that the controlling means controls the orientation of a non-circular shape of the heated area with respect to the track according to a radial position on the disk by generating a two-headed spot on the track so that the orientation is coincident with a longitudinal direction of the magnetic flux detecting means according to the track. Support for the shape of the heated area being non-circular is provided in Fig. 12 of the present application. See the heated area or thermal distribution area 122 which is generated by the two-headed spot 121.

As amended, claim 1 is not anticipated by Murakami or rendered obvious by Murakami. Murakami does not disclose the claimed means for controlling an orientation of a non-circular shape of a heated area with respect to the track according to a radial position on the disk so that the orientation is coincident with a longitudinal direction of a magnetic flux detecting means according to the track. In particular, Murakami provides an optical spot that is circular and the orientation of a circular shape does not change with respect to a track according to a radial position. Therefore, the orientation of the heated area and orientation of the crescent shape of the magnetic domain cannot be coincident with the longitudinal direction of the magnetic flux detecting means in Murakami. Accordingly, the rejections

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under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) which rely upon Murakami should be withdrawn.

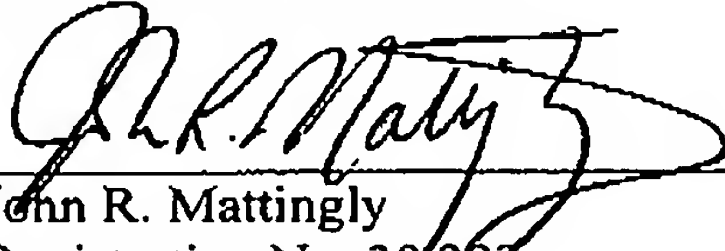
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

If a fee or additional fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or additional fee that may be required and credit any excess to Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (ASA-1074).

Respectfully submitted,

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